DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 158 664 HE 010 372

AUTHOR White, A. Leslie
TITLE Report on the Council of Graduate Schools-Graduate Record Examinations Board 1977-78 Survey of Graduate Enrollment. Part I.
INSTITUTION Council of Graduate Schools in the U.S., Washington, D.C.; Graduate Record Examinations Board, Princeton, N.J.
PUB DATE 30 Nov 77
NOTE 18p.; This report is also issued as "CGS Communicator Special Report No. 13, December 1977"
AVAILABLE FROM Graduate Record Examinations Board, Princeton, New Jersey 08540

EDRS PRICE MF-$0.83 HC-$1.67 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS Comparative Analysis; *Doctoral Degrees; Enrollment Rate; *Enrollment Trends; Fellowships; Graduate Students; *Graduate Study; Higher Education; *Masters Degrees; National Surveys; *School Surveys; Statistical Data; Student Application; Teaching Assistants; Trend Analysis

ABSTRACT

A survey was conducted to obtain accurate information on graduate school enrollments between 1976 and 1977. Enrollment data were gathered from the membership of the Council of Graduate Schools in the United States, which grants 99 percent of the earned doctorates and 85 percent of the Master's degrees. Of the 359 graduate school members, 304 questionnaires were returned. Graduate school enrollment and full/part-time enrollment increased by less than 1 percent. A decline of 1.6 percent occurred for enrollment at the public master's degree institutions. Total first-time enrollments in graduate schools increased 1.1 percent, and the number of non-service graduate fellowships increased 1.7 percent. The increase in fellowships is a departure from recent trends. The largest growth occurred in the number of master's degrees awarded, and more specifically, at the public institutions. Consistent with past trends, the number of doctoral degrees continued to decline. (SW)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****

Graduate Record Examinations Board
PRINCETON NEW JERSEY 08540 • AREA CODE 609 921-9000

IN AFFILIATION WITH
The Association of Graduate Schools
The Council of Graduate Schools
Educational Testing Service

Report on the Council of Graduate Schools-Graduate Record Examinations Board 1977-78 Survey of Graduate Enrollment*

"PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY

GRE

TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC) AND USERS OF THE ERIC SYSTEM."

Part I

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN REPRODUCED EXACTLY AS RECEIVED FROM THE PERSON OR ORGANIZATION ORIGINATING IT. POINTS OF VIEW OR OPINIONS STATED DO NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT OFFICIAL NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION POSITION OR POLICY

A. Leslie White
Asst. Program Director, GRE
Educational Testing Service
November 30, 1977

- ED158664

Introduction

As a result of the difficulty of obtaining accurate information on graduate enrollments, and particularly trends in enrollments, the GRE Board and the Council of Graduate Schools began five years ago to conduct an annual series of surveys of enrollment of the membership of the Council of Graduate Schools in the United States. The Council membership consists of some 359 graduate institutions who grant either the master's or doctorate as the highest degree. The members of the Council grant 99% of the earned doctorates and 85% of the master's degrees awarded.

This year's survey, like those of previous years, is divided into two sections, the first of which was distributed in the early fall of 1977 with a request that results be returned no later than October 28, 1977. This report provides the results of the first questionnaire mailing; it is anticipated that the results of the second questionnaire mailing will be available early in the spring of 1978.

Sample Description

Survey questionnaires were sent to each of the 359 graduate schools which are members of CGS. A total of 304 questionnaires were returned for an 85% response rate, an indication of the continued cooperation of member graduate schools. Since the primary purpose of the questionnaire was to develop comparative data between 1976 and 1977, responses to questions were included in the analysis only when data were supplied for both years. Thus, the effective response rate per question will vary from a high of 85% for the overall sample to a low of 74% for the question concerning applications. While this variability is probably to be expected, and is smaller than that found in previous years due to an increased effort to have -0- entered where appropriate, it does make comparisons across some questions of restricted value.

HE 010 372

*For reference purposes, this report is also issued as "CGS Communicator Special Report #13, December, 1977."

Comparison of Usable Sample and Base Population

	Base		Usable Sample		% (sample of each population subgroup)
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Total Institutions					
Public	242	67%	205	67%	85%
Private	117	33%	99	33%	85%
Total	359	100%	304	100%	85%
Master's Highest Degree					
Public	82	23%	70	23%	85%
Private	27	7%	25	8%	93%
Sub-total	109	30%	95	31%	87%
Ph.D. Highest Degree					
Public	160	45%	135	45%	84%
Private	90	25%	74	24%	82%
Sub-total	250	70%	209	69%	84%

Continued care should be exercised in attempting to compare results of this year's survey with published results of last year's survey insofar as 1976 data reported in the current survey may differ from 1976 data reported last year for several reasons. First, although the questionnaires and definitions remain unchanged from last year's survey, the actual number of institutions responding decreased by 2.4% and the specific institutions responding in 1977 were not always identical to those responding in 1976. Second, some institutions noted that the data for 1976 which they were able to provide for this year's survey were different from, and better than, the 1976 data which they provided last year. Finally, there was an increase in CGS membership (15 institutions or 4%) and a decrease both in the number of respondents and in the response rate (85% this year as compared with 91% last year). Despite these limitations, the overall obtained sample (i.e., those submitting usable questionnaires on time) is highly representative of the total CGS population.

Comparisons of number and percentages of the available population and sample are shown above; it should be noted that "Master's Highest Degree" refers, throughout this report, only to those institutions for which the master's degree is, in fact, the highest degree awarded. Data for these institutions do not reflect master's degrees offered by institutions which also offer the doctorate.

The percentages shown in the table on page 2--and in Tables 1 through 8 at the end of this report--show response rate based on the number of institutions in CGS; e.g., the 304 institutions providing responses to this survey represent

85% of the CGS institutions and an 85% response rate is noted. Since the sample of institutions with usable data becomes less complete as the complexity of the questions or the difficulty of obtaining the data increases, the number of institutions providing usable data and the response rate that number represents are given for each question in the data presentation.

In addition, several users of this report have expressed an interest in the proportion of total CGS graduate school enrollment which the responding institutions represent and these figures, while approximate, are provided in a footnote to each table. Based upon the results of this year's survey, combined with additional data from the Graduate Programs and Admissions Manual, one may estimate the 1976 total graduate school enrollment for CGS members at approximately 830,000. Using this estimate, it is then possible to report that the 304 institutions which responded to this year's survey represent an 85% response rate (based on percentage of CGS institutions) and also accounted for approximately 83% of the 1976 total graduate enrollment at CGS institutions. This latter figure is created by taking the 1976 total enrollment reported this year (687,847) and dividing by 830,000. For subsequent questions, a similar computation has been carried out, removing from the 687,847 the reported total graduate enrollment of each institution which failed to provide a usable response to the question.

Results

The results of the survey are displayed in Tables 1 through 8. The tables present the number of respondents with usable data to each question (i.e., data for both years and for all parts of the question), the percentage that number represents of the total group or of the subgroup, e.g., public, the total number of students reported each year and the percentage change from 1976 to 1977. All data are presented by public, private, and total. In addition, Tables 1 through 4 also present data for institutions classified by means of the Educational Directory, Part 3, in terms of the highest degree awarded. These categories are: Public-Master's Highest; Private-Master's Highest; Public-Doctorate Highest; and Private-Doctorate Highest. This additional breakdown was not applied to later questions because it was not felt to be particularly important or because the differences were too small to affect the overall results.

Finally, all data were summarized by size of the responding graduate school, although these summaries do not appear in the tables presented. As with last year's report, this report bases size categories on quartile ranges by institutional type drawn from Part I of a prior survey. Thus, each size category--ranging from "1" for the smallest institutions to "4" for the largest institutions--will contain approximately 25% of all institutions of one type, facilitating meaningful comparisons of institutions by size. Size categories used in this report, by institutional type, are shown on page 4; results based on these size categories are noted in the following discussion, where appropriate.

Total Graduate School Enrollment for Size Categories, by Institutional Type

(Each size category contains approximately 25% of all institutions of that institutional type)

	(smallest) Category 1	Category 2	Category 3	(largest) Category 4
Public-Master's Highest Degree	0-900	901-1400	1401-2500	over 2500
Private-Master's Highest Degree	0-250	250-600	601-900	over 900
Public-Ph.D. Highest Degree	0-1200	1201-2600	2601-4100	over 4100
Private-Ph.D. Highest Degree	0-800	801-1400	1401-2300	over 2300

Discussion

Table 1 - Total enrollment this year has had a small increase for the institutions reporting. In total, the increase was 1,439, a 0.2% increase above last year. The only decrease was at the public master's degree institutions where the decline was 1.6%. Viewed in terms of size categories, private master's institutions experienced a decline in all but category 4 where there was a slight (2.6%) increase. Interestingly, at public Ph.D. institutions the only decline (5.5%) was in size 1.

Table 2- Total first time enrollments have increased slightly (1.1%). The largest gain (2.7%) occurred in the public master's degree institutions. The only decline (2.1%) was found in the private master's degree institutions. Although there are no patterns when examining the size categories, the private Ph.D. institutions show the largest reduction (5.9%) in category 3 with a similar increase in category 4 (5.1%).

Table 3 - Consistent with last year, the response rate for this question was the lowest of all items (74%). By institutional type both the public MA and Private Ph.D. institutions declined by 0.4%. At the public Ph.D. institutions the loss was slightly larger (2.3%). Looking at the size categories with the exception of the public Ph.D. institutions, the smallest 3 categories showed declines of about 5%. The only increase at the public Ph.D. institutions occurred in category 3.

Table 4 - The number of graduate assistants (service required) increased in all but the public master's degree institutions which reported a decrease (2.3%). The largest increase (9.5%) also occurred in the private MA institutions. With 3 exceptions, all size categories increased. Public MA institutions declined in all sizes. The largest growth appears in size 1 of the private master's degree institutions.

Table 5 - The number of graduate fellows (non-service required) showed a small increase (1.7%) over last year. The only decline occurred at the private MA institutions where the percentage decrease was large (41.2%) but not very significant because the numbers of fellowships were small and the decreases primarily reflect dramatic declines at only two schools.

Table 6 - The table displays a breakdown of full- and part-time student enrollment for those institutions reporting. The report indicates increased total enrollment and additional increase in the number of part-time students (61%) at all but the private MA institutions where a slight (1.0%) loss occurred. Both full-time and part-time enrollments have increased but the part-time enrollment has increased more than full-time. By size there is little variance over last year except in category 2 of the private master's degree institutions where we find a 7% shift in full- and part-time enrollment; full-time enrollment is up, part-time enrollment is down.

Table 7 - The number of master's degrees awarded are up at all institutions with a total increase of 2.4%. The public MA institutions made the best gains (7.5%). Looking at the sizes, all of the larger institutions experienced a slight to moderate increase.

Table 8 - Consistent with prior years the final table shows a decline (3.0%) in the total number of doctoral degrees awarded at both public (2.9%) and private (3.3%) institutions. In all but size 3 of the public Ph.D. institutions where a moderate increase is noted (2.5%) there is a continued downward trend.

Conclusions

Although the first part of the CGS-GRE Board Survey of Graduate School Enrollment did not receive the hoped for number of responses from participating institutions, the data that were generated proved quite valuable in ascertaining short-term trends in America graduate education.

Slight change is perhaps the best description of the overall results of this year's survey. Graduate school enrollment and full/part-time enrollment increased by less than 1%. Larger (1-2%) but, again, relative slight changes occurred with applications (-1.6%), first-time enrollments (+1.1%) and fellowships (+1.7%). It is important to note that the increase in fellowships is a departure from recent trends. The largest growth is seen in the number of master's degrees awarded, and more specifically, at the public institutions. Consistent with past trends the number of doctoral degrees continues to decline.

TABLE 1

Total Graduate School* Enrollment by Type of Institution

	Number	%**	1976	1977	% Change
Master's Highest					
Public	70	85%	142,806	140,510	1.6% decrease
Private	25	93%	21,127	21,316	0.9% increase
Sub-Total	95	87%	163,933	161,826	1.3% decrease
Ph.D. Highest					
Public	135	84%	396,803	399,662	0.7% increase
Private	74	82%	127,111	127,798	0.5% increase
Sub-Total	209	83%	523,914	527,460	0.6% increase
Total Institutions					
Public	205	85%	539,609	540,172	0.1% increase
Private	99	85%	148,238	149,114	0.6% increase
Total	304	80%***	687,847	689,286	0.2% increase

*For purposes of this survey, institutions were asked to include all students considered as registered in the graduate school, including education, engineering, social work, medical and business programs leading to MA/MS or Ph.D., Ed.D., or other doctorates.

**Percentage figures are the number of institutions responding to this question as a percentage of the number available in the total group. For example, 70 Public Master's Highest Degree institutions responded out of a possible 82 such institutions in the CGS membership for an 85% response rate for that group of institutions.

***Based on the computations described under Sample Description on page 3, the 304 institutions responding to this question represent 85% of the CGS institutions and accounted for approximately 83% of the 1976 total student enrollment at CGS institutions.

TABLE 2

First-Time Graduate Enrollment by Type of Institution

	Number	%	1976	1977	% Change
Master's Highest					
Public	63	77%	28,975	29,769	3.7% increase
Private	22	81%	5,642	5,526	2.0% decrease
Sub-Total	85	78%	34,617	35,295	1.9% increase
Ph.D. Highest					
Public	129	81%	95,946	96,487	0.6% increase
Private	70	78%	34,992	35,639	1.8% increase
Sub-Total	199	79%	130,938	132,136	0.9% increase
Total Institutions					
Public	192	79%	124,921	126,256	1.1% increase
Private	92	78%	40,634	41,165	1.3% increase
Total	284	80%*	165,555	167,421	1.1% increase

*Based on the computations described under Sample Description on page 3, the 284 institutions responding to this question represent 80% of the CGS institutions and accounted for approximately 77% of the 1976 total student enrollment at CGS institutions.

TABLE 3

Number of Applications for Graduate Study

	Number	%	1976	1977	% Change
Master's Highest					
Public	61	74%	61,388	61,125	0.4% decrease
Private	18	67%	9,304	9,412	1.2% increase
Sub-Total	79	72%	70,692	70,537	0.2% decrease
Ph.D. Highest					
Public	118	74%	314,882	307,525	2.3% decrease
Private	67	74%	133,473	132,914	0.4% decrease
Sub-Total	185	74%	448,355	440,439	1.8% decrease
Total Institutions					
Public	179	74%	376,270	368,650	2.0% decrease
Private	85	73%	142,777	142,326	0.3% decrease
Total	264	74%*	519,047	510,976	1.6% decrease

*Based on the computations described under Sample Description on page 3 the 264 institutions responding to this question represent 74% of the CGS institutions and accounted for approximately 71% of the 1976 total student enrollment at CGS institutions.

TABLE 4

Number of Graduate Assistants (Service Required)

	Number	%	1976	1977	% Change
Master's Highest					
Public	66	80%	5,703	5,572	2.3% decrease
Private	25	93%	484	530	8.7% increase
Sub-Total	91	83%	6,187	6,102	1.4% decrease
Ph.D. Highest					
Public	127	79%	83,274	85,734	2.9% increase
Private	67	74%	17,608	18,082	2.6% increase
Sub-Total	194	78%	100,882	103,746	2.8% increase
Total Institutions					
Public	193	80%	88,977	91,306	2.6% increase
Private	92	79%	18,092	18,542	2.4% increase
Total	285	80%*	107,069	109,848	2.5% increase

*Based on the computations described under Sample Description on page 3, the 285 institutions responding to this question represent 80% of the CGS institutions and accounted for approximately 76% of the 1976 total student enrollment at CGS institutions.

TABLE 5

Number of Graduate Fellows (Nonservice Required)

	Number	%	1976	1977	% Change
Public	183	76%	13,732	13,834	0.7 increase
Private	88	75%	11,722	12,050	2.7 increase
Total	271	76%*	25,454	25,884	1.7 increase

TABLE 6

Full-time - Part-time** Total Enrollment

			1976				1977			
	Number	%	Full-time Number	%	Part-time Number	%	Full-time Number	%	Part-time Number	%
Public	192	79%	194,219	39%	307,447	61%	193,531	38%	311,638	62%
Private	95	81%	60,565	43%	80,484	57%	59,875	42%	82,489	58%
Total	287	80%***	254,784	40%	387,931	60%	253,406	39%	394,127	61%

*Based on the computations described under Sample Description on page 3, the 271 institutions responding to this question represent 76% of the CGS institutions and accounted for approximately 72% of the 1976 total student enrollment at CGS institutions.

**Institutions were directed to apply their own institutional definitions to "part-time" and "full-time."

***Based on the computations described under Sample Description on page 3, the 287 institutions responding to this question represent 80% of the CGS institutions and accounted for approximately 78% of the 1976 total student enrollment at CGS institutions.

TABLE 7

Number of Master's Degrees

	Number	%	1975-76	1976-77	% Change
Public	205	85%	128,050	131,654	2.7% increase
Private	98	84%	34,038	34,356	0.9% increase
Total	303	85%*	162,088	166,010	2.3% increase

*Based on the computations described under Sample Description on page 3, the 303 institutions responding to this question represent 85% of the CGS institutions and accounted for approximately 82% of the 1976 total student enrollment at CGS institutions.

TABLE 8

Number of Ph.D. Degrees

	Number	%	1975-76	1976-77	% Change
Public	136	85%	16,625	16,143	2.9% decrease
Private	73	81%	6,915	6,690	3.2% decrease
Total	209	84%*	23,540	22,833	3.0% decrease

*Based on the computations described under Sample Description on page 3, the 209 institutions responding to this question represent 84% of the CGS doctoral institutions.